



## Highlights:

Flat Roof Safety When Fighting Fires

“EMS Strong” Goes Beyond National EMS Week

Convincing People to Evacuate

Three Upcoming EMS-Focused Webinars

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For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

# The InfoGram

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## Flat Roof Safety When Fighting Fires

Roof operations are critical to firefighting, and there are many things about a fire that you can “read” from the roof. [Flat roofs can be challenging](#) and in ways are more dangerous than peaked roofs. Knowing how to handle a flat roof is important to scene safety.

The extent of roof operations on a flat roof will depend very much on the [type of roof construction](#) the building has. Some will limit or eliminate the time personnel should be on the roof (e.g., gypsum, lightweight steel bar joist) while others can make it look as though the fire is not impacting the roof when in fact it is (e.g., rain roof).

Informing the incident commander of what you’re seeing is important. Report on hazards such as heavy HVAC units that could come down on firefighters working inside the building. Early on, try to determine where the fire might be located in the building by looking for signs of heating on the roof. Report any important changes in conditions when you notice them.

Personal safety is a must. When working the roof, keep yourself between the fire and your means of egress. Do the same when ventilating the roof. Keep an eye out for things like skylights that may have been boarded up but are not up to code; you may fall through them.

FireRescue1 has a 2-part video series on ventilation and flat roofs. [Part one](#) discusses needed tools, construction, ventilating skylights, opening locked roof access doors, and looking for victims. [Part two](#) talks about determining where to ventilate and how best to accomplish it.

(Source: [FirefighterNation.com](http://FirefighterNation.com))

## “EMS Strong” Goes Beyond National EMS Week

National EMS Week is May 17-23 this year, and the National Association of EMTs is partnering with the American College of Emergency Physicians to use this year’s theme, “EMS Strong,” to bring greater visibility to the profession.

The [EMS Strong campaign](#) asks “what matters more – the stuff on the outside of the uniform, or the stuff on the inside?” The site aims to put a focus on the people that do the work, the teams they form, how they face the personal and professional issues they face, and celebrate the reasons they continue to do the job.

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For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the **National Infrastructure Coordinating Center** by phone at **202-282-9201**, or by email at **[nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)**.

Resources available on the EMS Strong website include a spotlight on stories of people in the industry, resources to support EMS personnel, and information about EMS and its history. The site also includes information on how to celebrate EMS Week through fun activities, outreach, and remembrance.

(Source: [EMS Strong](#))

## Convincing People to Evacuate

One of the banes of emergency management officials is convincing the public they need to evacuate ahead of a forecasted emergency like a hurricane or flood. Even after the [hard lessons learned](#) from Hurricane Katrina, [only about half of the 350,000 included in New York City's mandatory evacuation order](#) evacuated before Hurricane Sandy.

Officials use a variety of methods to convince people to leave their homes, including door-to-door canvassing and messages using a variety of media and social media. Some tips:

- Don't use the word "voluntary" even if it does apply to the evacuation;
- Explain that police and ambulances may not be able to reach them during the crisis;
- Remind people help and relief may be delayed by hours or days in the aftermath;
- Describe the quantity of supplies they need until help arrives, 3 days' worth.

Scare tactics are controversial but some localities do use them. Requesting a resident's next of kin information or suggesting they let their family know [funeral assistance](#) is available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the event they die during the disaster might drive home the point, but their success is unknown.

One expert found that the way to convince people evacuation is the best course of action is to [determine the reasons people stay in the first place and address them](#). That will depend on the communities, and [it may take interviews and surveys to spot the underlying reasons](#). Once uncovered, officials will have a better idea of their next steps.

(Source: [NBC New York](#))

## Three Upcoming EMS-Focused Webinars

A few organizations and government agencies will host online webinars next week in part to commemorate EMS Week:

- Monday, May 18 from 1-2 pm Eastern: The Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety is offering a webinar on the contribution of EMS to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan process. No registration is required; [simply sign in as a guest](#). Conference line: 877-336-1839. Code: 8010907.
- Monday, May 18 from noon-1 pm Eastern: EMS for Children is holding a discussion about the "[Checklist of Essential Pediatric Domains and Considerations for Every Hospital's Disaster Preparedness Policies](#)" (PDF, 1.9 Mb). It will include a discussion on how hospital administration can use the tool to integrate pediatric issues in hospital policy. [Interested parties must register](#).
- Wednesday, May 20 from 2-3:30 pm Eastern: Oak Ridge Associated Universities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will jointly talk about legal issues impacting EMS providers during public health emergencies or during a surge. [Please register for this event](#).

(Sources: various)